

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 15, 16, and 18 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 8, and 17 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for recording speech to be used as learning data for recognizing input speech into a database, comprising:

storage means for storing a recording character string indicating a sentence to be recorded;

display control means for controlling displaying of the recording character string indicating the sentence to be recorded in order to record the speech read out by a user into the database;

recognition means for recognizing input speech of the displayed sentence that [[a]] the user reads out, and for obtaining a recognized character string;

determination means for comparing a pattern of the recognized character string with a pattern of the recording character string, so as to obtain a matching rate between the pattern of the recognized character string and the pattern of the recording character string based on the comparison, and for determining whether the matching rate exceeds a predetermined level;

recording means for recording relating the input speech itself to the recording character string displayed by the display control means and recording it into the database as the learning data for recognizing speech when it is determined by said determination means that the matching rate exceeds the predetermined level;

re-input instruction means for issuing an instruction to input speech once again when it is determined by said determination means that the matching rate does not exceed the predetermined level; and

presentation means for presenting to the user an unmatched portion between the recognized character string pattern and the recording character string pattern.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said presentation means presents the unmatched portion so as to identify the type of error as an insertion error, a deletion error, or a substitution error, as determined by said determination means.

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said presentation means simultaneously displays the recognized character string and the recording character string on a screen by changing a character attribute or a background attribute of an unmatched portion or a matched portion of at least one of the recognized character string and the recording character string.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said presentation means simultaneously displays the recognized character string and the recording character string on a screen by causing an unmatched portion or a matched portion of at least one of the recognized character string and the recording character string to blink.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for recording speech into a database, to be used as learning data for recognizing input speech, comprising:

 a display control step of controlling displaying of a recording character string indicating a sentence to be recorded in order to record the speech read out by a user into the database;

 a recognition step of recognizing input speech of the displayed sentence that [[a]] the user reads out, and for obtaining a recognized character string;

 a determination step of comparing a pattern of the recognized character string with a pattern of the recording character string, so as to obtain a matching rate between the pattern of the recognized character string and the pattern of the recording character string based on the comparison, and of determining whether the matching rate exceeds a predetermined level;

 a recording step of recording relating the input speech itself to the recording character string displayed in the display control step and recording it into the database as the learning data for recognizing speech when it is determined in said determination step that the matching rate exceeds the predetermined level;

 a re-input instruction step of issuing an instruction to input speech once again when it is determined in said determination step that the matching rate does not exceed the predetermined level; and

 a presentation step of presenting to the user an unmatched portion between the recognized character string pattern and the recording character string pattern.

9-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, wherein said presentation step presents the unmatched portion so as to identify the type of error as an insertion error, a deletion error, or a substitution error, as determined in said determination step.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, wherein said presentation step simultaneously displays the recognized character string and the recording character string on a screen by changing a character attribute or a background attribute of an unmatched portion or a matched portion of at least one of the recognized character string and the recording character string.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, wherein said presentation step simultaneously displays the recognized character string and the recording character string on a screen by causing an unmatched portion or a matched portion of at least one of the recognized character string and the recording character string to blink.

15-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a control program having computer readable program code units for allowing a computer to execute a speech recording method, said control program comprising:

a first program code unit for controlling displaying of a recording character string indicating a sentence to be recorded in order to record the speech read out by a user into a database;

a second program code unit for recognizing input speech of the displayed sentence that [[a]] the user reads out, and for obtaining a recognized character string;

a third program code unit for comparing a pattern of the recognized character string with a pattern of the recording character string, so as to obtain a matching rate between the pattern of the recognized character string and the pattern of the recording character string based on the comparison, and for determining whether the matching rate exceeds a predetermined level; and

a fourth program code unit for recording relating the input speech itself to the displayed recording character string and recording it into the database as the learning data for recognizing speech when it is determined by said third program code unit that the matching rate exceeds the predetermined level;

a fifth program code unit for issuing an instruction to input speech once again when it is determined by said third program code unit that the matching rate does not exceed the predetermined level; and

a sixth program code unit for presenting to the user an unmatched portion between the recognized character string pattern and the recording character string pattern.

18-22. (Cancelled)